

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03551 030422Z

17/14
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /106 W

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R 022116Z SEP 76 ZDK
FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8975
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION GENEVA

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CORRECTED COPY - GENEVA OMMITTED FROM ORIGINAL COPY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS - INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND
POLITICAL RIGHTS AND FRG PROPOSAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COURT

1. THE FIRST MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE INTERNA-
TPONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS WILL BE HELD
IN NEW YORK ON SEPTEMBER 20. AMONG THE MATTERS ON THE AGENDA
(DOC. CCPR/SP/1) IS ELECTION OF EIGHTEEN MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMITTEE TO BE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO PART IV OF
THE COVENANT. AS THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT RATIFIED THE
COVENANT, THE U.S. WILL NOT BE A CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION TO
THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, BUT MISSION OFFICER WILL, HOWEVER,
ATTEND THE SEPTEMBER 20 MEETING WHICH IS AN OPEN MEETING.

COMMENT: THE SOVIET MISSION HAS ALREADY GIVEN AN INDICATION
THAT THEY WILL ATTEMPT TO MAKE THE COVENANT AND THE NEW
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE THE KEYSTONES OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS
ACTIVITIES. IN A PRESS RELEASE DATED AUGUST 25 (BEING
POUCHED TO IO-HEWITT) THE SOVIET MISSION DISCUSSES QTE
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HUMAN RIGHTS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION UNQTE. THE MISSION

POINTS OUT THAT THE COMING INTO FORCE OF THE COVENANTS IN MARCH SHOULD BE REGARDED AS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN PROMOTING PEACE, JUSTICE AND PROSPERITY, AS WAS THE FINAL ACT OF THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE, BUT UNFORTUNATELY NOT ALL STATES, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, HAVE SIGNED AND RATIFIED THESE ACTS (I.E. THE COVENANTS). THE NOTE CONTINUES THAT MAIN ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO IMPARTING THE COVENANTS A UNIVERSAL CHARACTER BUT THE ATTENTION OF SOME POLITICAL LEADERS IN THE WEST IS TURNING TO SUCH UNREALISTIC PLANS AS THE SETTING UP OF SUPRA-NATIONAL BODIES AND PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE PRESS RELEASE CONTINUES IN A TWO PAGE ARGUMENT AGAINST AN INTERNATIONAL COURT, CITING, INTER ALIA, THE FACT THAT A NEW BODY, THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS PROVIDED FOR IN THE COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AND EMPHASIZING THAT DIRECT REGULATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS IS AN INTERNAL STATE MATTER. THE PRESS RELEASE DOES NOT MENTION BY NAME THE FRG AS THE AUTHOR OF THE PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL COURT ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, MEETING AGENDA, AGREEMENTS, COMMITTEES, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN03551
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760342-0326, D760334-0632
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760995/aaaaddqp.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS - INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AND FRG PROPOSAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COURT
TAGS: SHUM, OCON
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006